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✓ Latest release

Education and Work, Australia

Data on engagement in work and/or study, current and recent study, qualifications, and transitions to work

Reference period May 2022

Released 10/11/2022

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Key statistics

Of people aged 15-74:

- 63% had a non-school qualification.
- 79% with a non-school qualification, and 58% without, were employed.
- 85% who finished a non-school qualification in 2021 were employed in 2022.

Of those aged 15-24:

- 63% were currently studying.
- 8% were not engaged in any work or study.

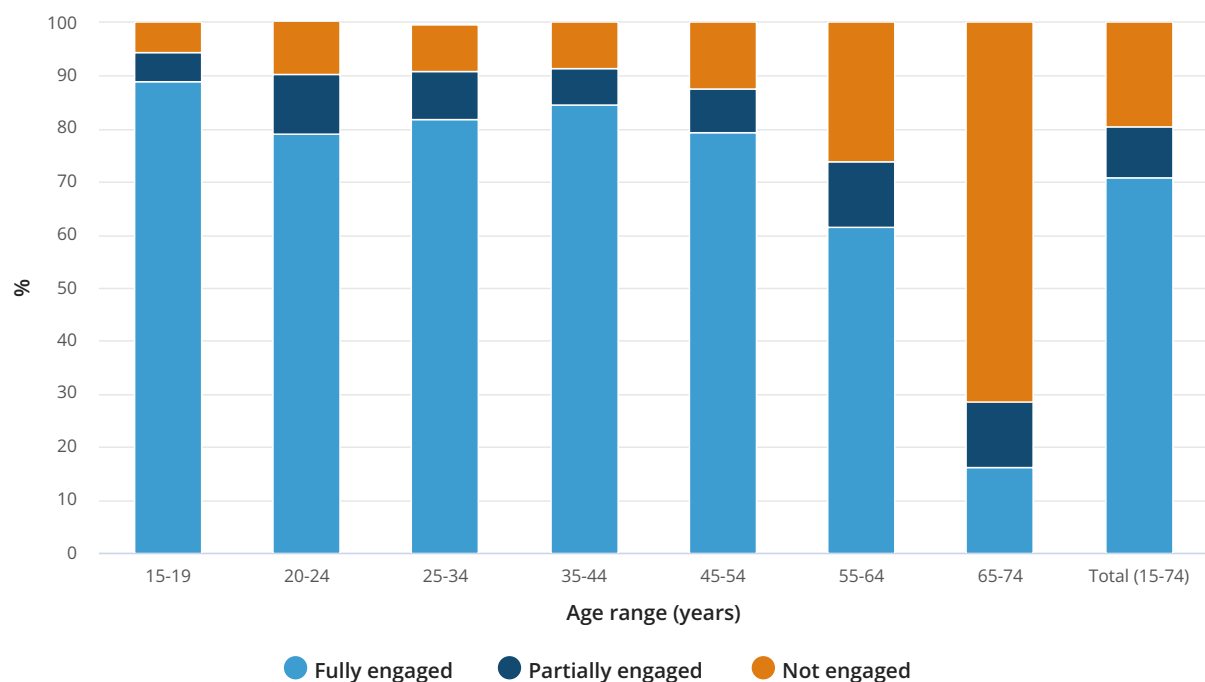
Engagement in work and/or study

A person who is either working full-time, studying full-time, or both working and studying is fully engaged. A person who is only working part-time, or only studying part-time, is partially engaged.

In 2022:

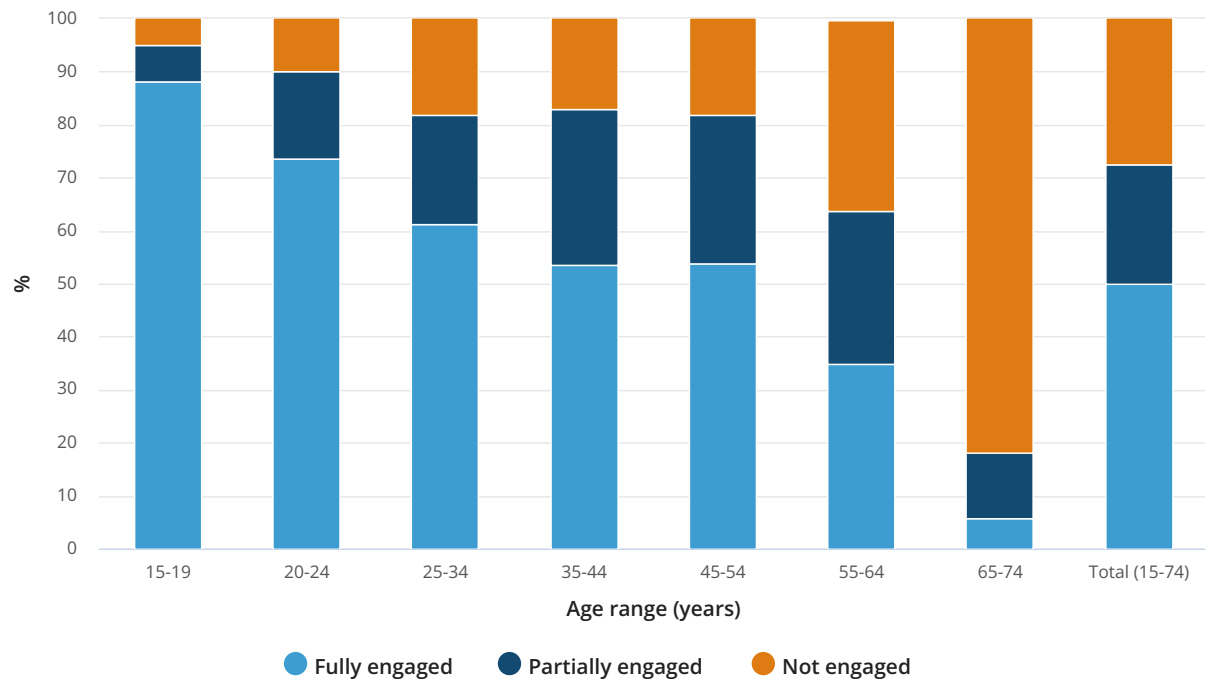
- 60% of Australians aged 15-74 years (11.5 million people) were fully engaged in work or study.
- 16% (3.0 million people) were partially engaged.
- 24% (4.5 million people) were not engaged in either work or study.

1: Engagement in work and/or study, by age, males



Source: Education and Work, Australia, 2022, Table 15 and customised data

2: Engagement in work and/or study, by age, females



Source: Education and Work, Australia, 2022, Table 15 and customised data

Just over three-quarters of the 2.1 million people currently studying for a certificate, diploma or degree were also working:

- 40% worked part-time.
- 37% worked full-time.

Fully and partially engaged in work and/or study

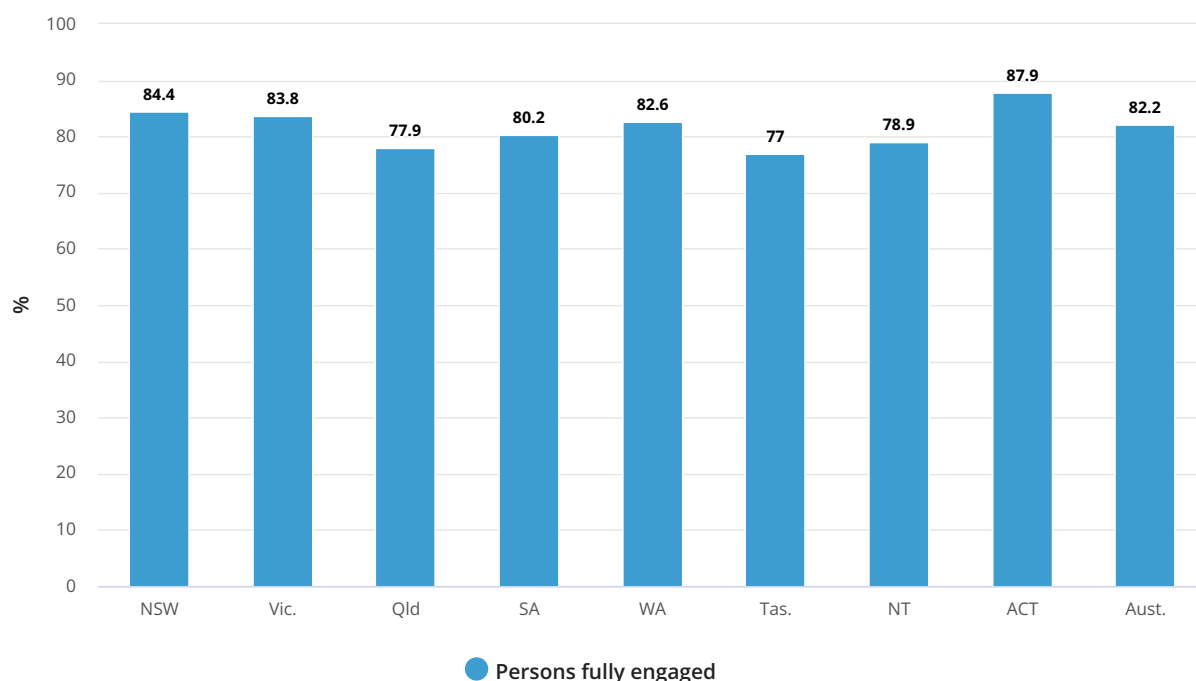
Of those aged 15-74 years:

- 71% of men were fully engaged in work and/or study.
- 50% of women were fully engaged.

Young people aged 15-24 years were the most likely to be fully engaged in work and study (82%), with similar rates for both men and women.

Full engagement for young people was highest in the Australian Capital Territory (88%), followed by New South Wales and Victoria (84% each).

3. Young people fully engaged in work or study, by state and territory(a)



(a) All persons aged 15-24 years.

Source: *Education and Work, Australia, 2022, Table 16*

In 2022 the balance of work and study had changed for young people aged 15-24 years:

- 26% were fully engaged primarily through full-time work in 2022, compared with 24% in 2021.
- 50% were fully engaged primarily through full-time study in 2022, compared with 53% in 2021.

The rate of full engagement for women aged 25-44 years with young children (under five years) was less than half that of their male counterparts (36% and 88% respectively).

Women aged 20-64 years were more likely to be partially engaged with work or study (26%) than men aged 20-64 years (9%).

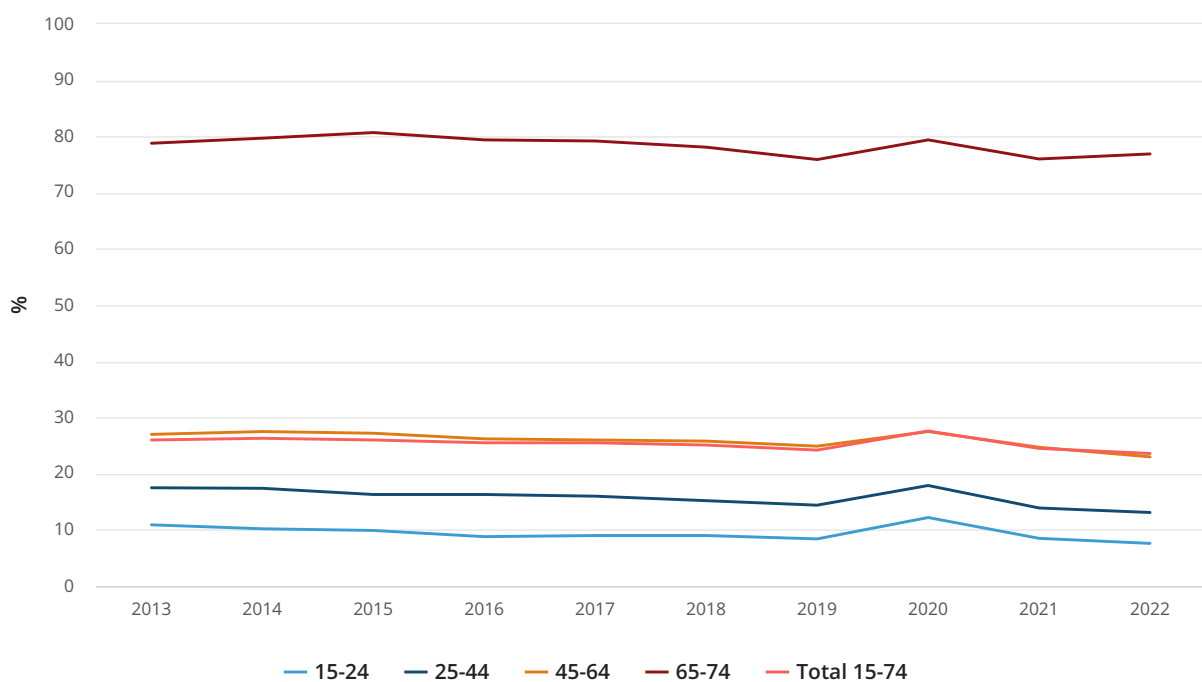
Not engaged in work or study

While the proportion of people not engaged in work or study increased through 2020 and 2021 due to impacts of COVID-19, these rates had largely returned to pre-COVID levels for all age groups by 2022.

Engagement differs across age groups:

- 8% of young people aged 15-24 years were not engaged in any work or study, the lowest proportion of all age groups.
- The majority (77%) of people aged 65-74 years were not working or studying.

4: Not engaged in work or study, by age, 2013-2022



Source: Education and Work, Australia, 2022, Customised data

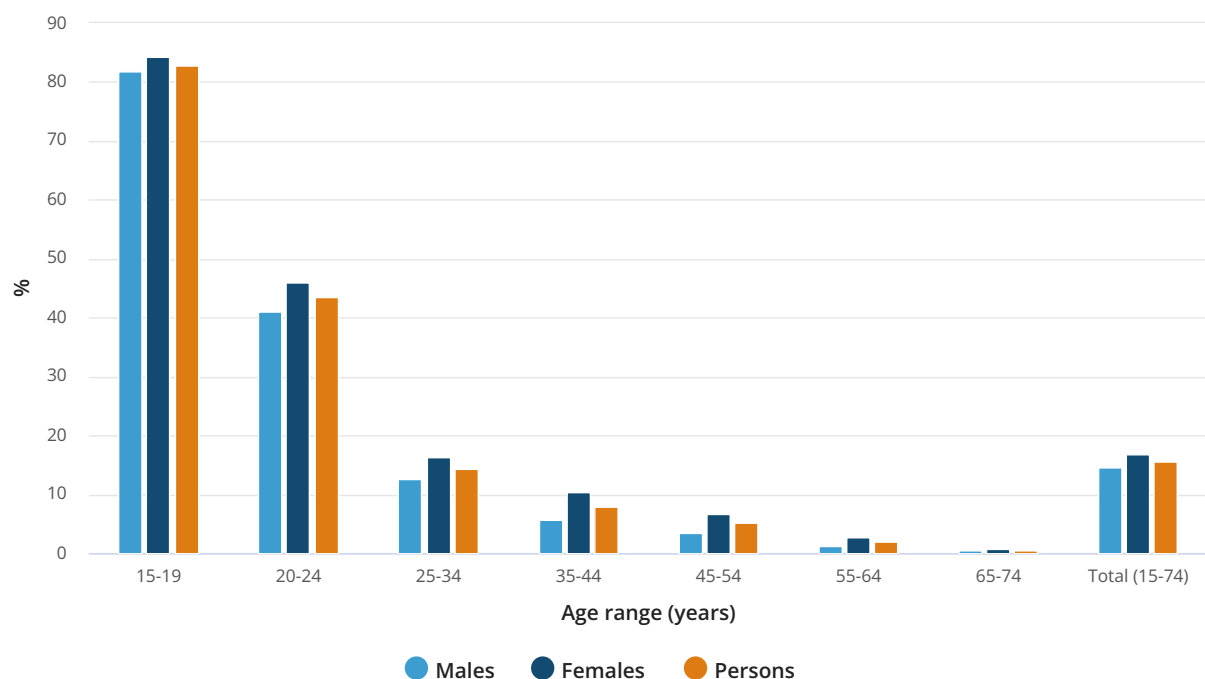
Current and recent study

Currently enrolled in study

In 2022:

- Almost 3 million people aged 15-74 years (16%) were currently studying, including school students.
- 65% of all students were aged 15-24 years, with a further 18% aged 25-34 years.
- 31% of these current students were at school, while 42% were at higher education institutions, 15% were studying at technical and further education (TAFE) institutions, and 12% were studying at other education or training institutions.
- 66% of current students (including school students) were enrolled in full-time study.

5: Currently enrolled in study, by sex and age



Source: Education and Work, Australia, 2022, Customised data

Young people and school leavers

In 2022:

- 63% of people aged 15-24 years were at school or enrolled in further studies in 2022,

compared with 65% in 2021 (and at similar levels to 2019 and 2020, both 63%).

- 43% of all people aged 20-24 years were studying for a non-school qualification, compared with 45% in 2021, 44% in 2020, and 46% in 2019.
- 58% of school leavers who had finished Year 12 in 2021 were studying for a non-school qualification in 2022, with the majority enrolled in a bachelor degree.

Of school leavers who had finished in 2021 with qualifications at Year 11 or below:

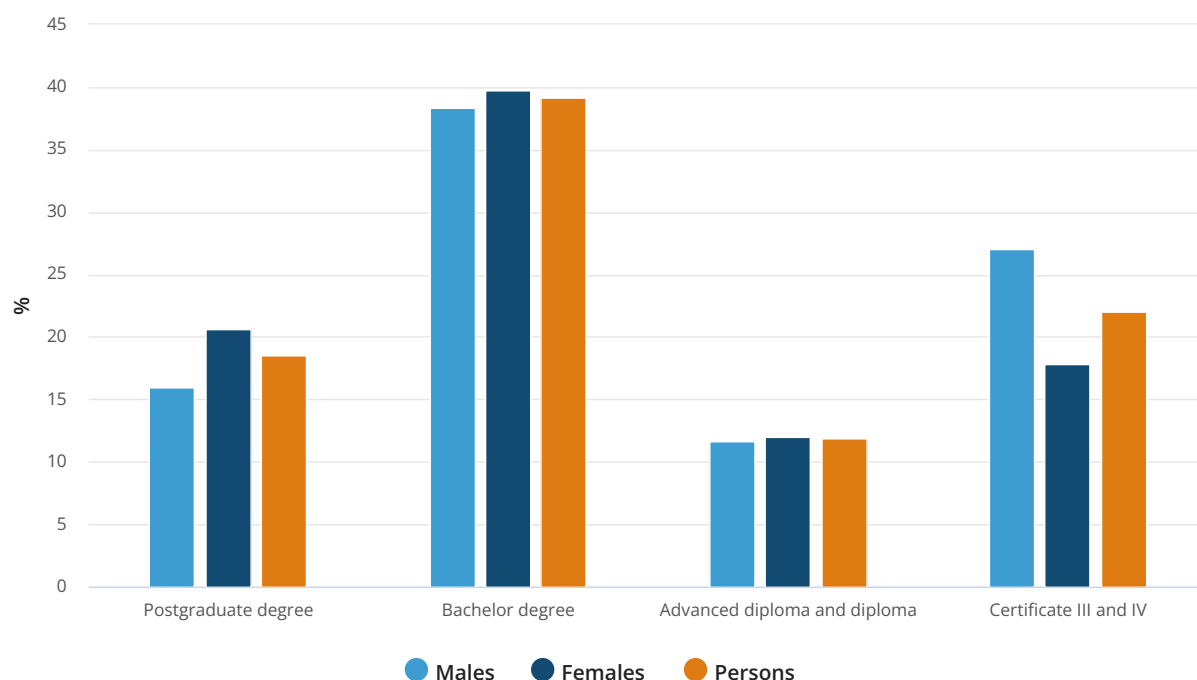
- 42% were studying for a non-school qualification in 2022.
- 22% had undertaken vocational education and training (VET) as part of their school studies.

Studying for a non-school qualification (certificate, diploma or degree)

In 2022, 2.1 million people aged 15-74 years were studying for a non-school qualification. Of these current students:

- 19% were undertaking post-graduate studies, including postgraduate degrees, graduate diplomas and graduate certificates (16% of male students and 21% of female students).
- 39% were studying for a bachelor degree (38% of male students and 40% of female students).
- 12% were studying for a diploma or advanced diploma (12% each of male and female students).
- 22% were studying for a certificate III or IV (27% of male students and 18% of female students).

6: Study for a non-school qualification by level, by sex(a)(b)



(a) Persons aged 15-74 who were studying for a non-school qualification in 2022.

(b) Excludes people who were studying for a certificate I or II, and people whose level of non-school study was unable to be determined.

Source: *Education and Work, Australia, 2022, Customised data*

The profile of current students is getting older. In 2022, around 49% of people studying for a non-school qualification were aged 15-24 years. This compares with 52% of all students a decade earlier in 2012, and 54% of all students in 2002.

Fields of study

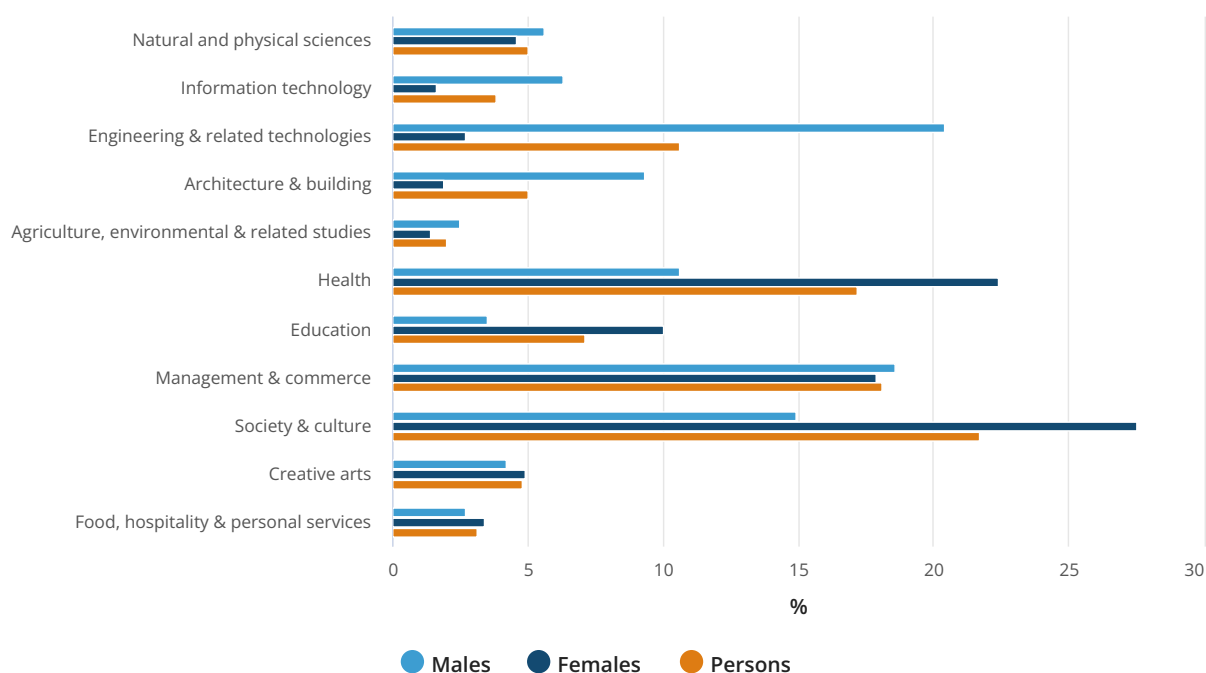
Of students who were currently undertaking a non-school qualification:

- 22% were studying for a qualification in the field of society and culture (15% of male students and 28% of female students).
- 18% were studying management and commerce (19% of male students and 18% of

female students).

- 17% were studying health (11% of male students and 22% of female students).
- 11% were studying engineering and related technologies (20% of male students and 3% of female students).

7. Field of current study for a non-school qualification, by sex(a)



(a) Persons aged 15-74 who were studying for a non-school qualification.

Source: *Education and Work, Australia, 2022, Table 5*

Studies in STEM

In 2022:

- 442,000 people were studying for a non-school qualification in a science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) field. Almost three-quarters (73%) of current STEM students were men.
- A further 464,000 people were studying for a non-school qualification in the STEM-related fields of architecture and building, and health.
- While 82% of architecture and building students were men, reflecting the overall STEM trend, 73% of all students studying for a non-school qualification in health were women.

Ongoing and incomplete studies

In 2022, of people aged 15-74 years who had been enrolled in a qualification in the previous year (2021):

- 1.4 million (56%) had not completed the non-school qualification they were enrolled in. For most people (87%), this was due to their ongoing enrolment in 2022.
- 175,000 (13%) had either deferred or dropped out of their qualification. That is, they had not completed a qualification they were enrolled in during 2021 and were no longer studying in 2022.

Apprentices and trainees

Approximately 297,000 people aged 15-74 years were employed as apprentices or trainees (including school-based apprentices or trainees). Of these:

- 76% were aged 15-24 years.
- 75% were male.
- 55% had started their apprenticeship or traineeship in the last 12 months.

Around 22,000 people who had applied for an apprenticeship or traineeship in 2022 did not take up the place they were offered, while around 32,000 who had applied did not gain a place.

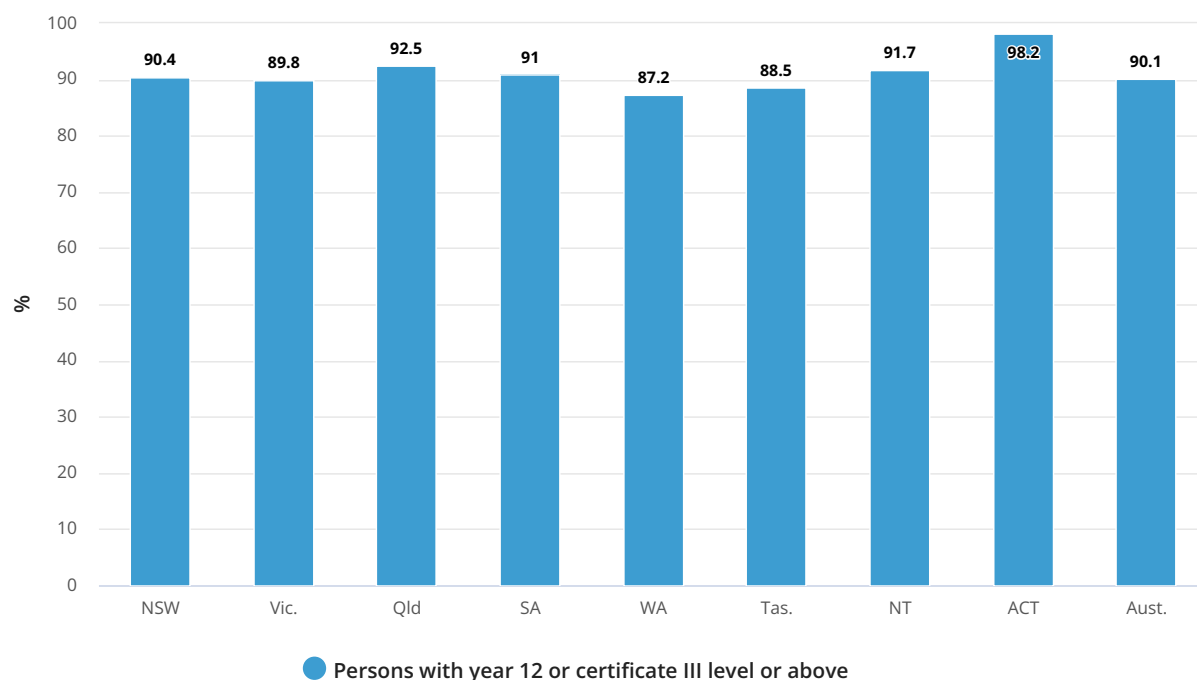
Qualifications held

Qualifications at year 12 or certificate III level or above

In 2022, of people aged 20-24 years:

- 90% had attained a qualification at year 12 or certificate III level or above.
- 93% of women held qualifications at this level, compared with 88% of men.
- 98% of those in the Australian Capital Territory held qualifications at this level.

8: Young people with Year 12 or certificate III level or above, by state or territory(a)



(a) All persons aged 20-24 years.

Source: *Education and Work, Australia, 2022, Table 20*

Non-school qualifications

Attained or studying for a non-school qualification

In 2022, 12.9 million people aged 15-74 years (68%) had, or were currently studying for, a non-school qualification (a certificate, diploma or degree).

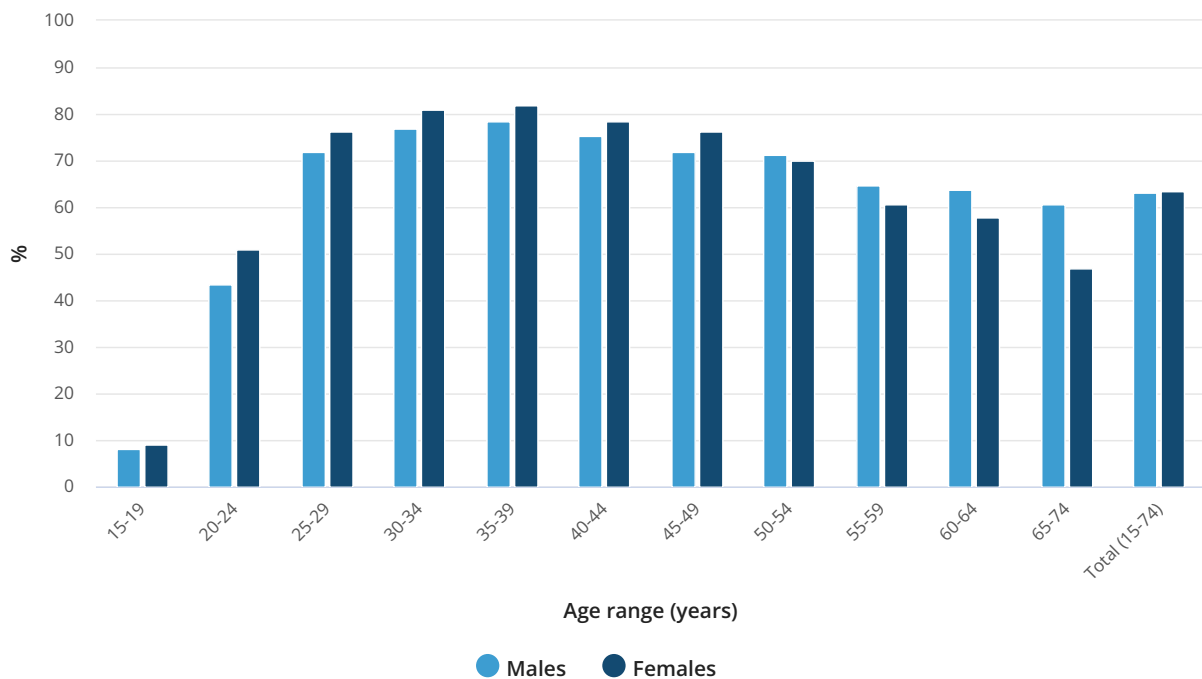
Non-school qualifications held

Overall, the same proportion of men and women aged 15-74 years (63%) had attained a non-school qualification (5.9 million men and 6.1 million women).

These rates of attainment differed by age group, with older men more likely to hold a non-school qualification than older women (cohorts aged 50-54 years and older).

Conversely, younger women were more likely to hold a non-school qualification than younger men.

9: People with a non-school qualification, by sex and age



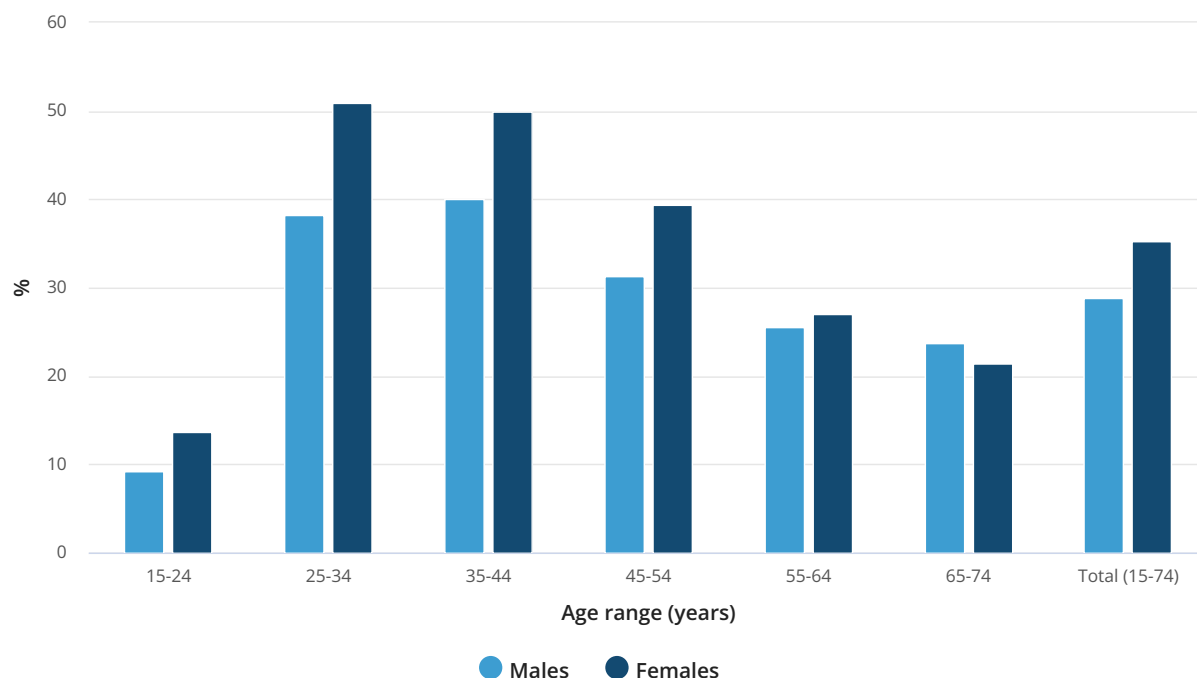
Source: *Education and Work, Australia, 2022, Table 25*

Non-school qualifications at bachelor degree level and above

In 2022:

- 50% of women aged 25-44 years had a qualification at bachelor degree level or above, compared with 39% of men in the same age group.
- 32% overall of people aged 15-74 years had a bachelor degree or above, with notable variations across age groups.

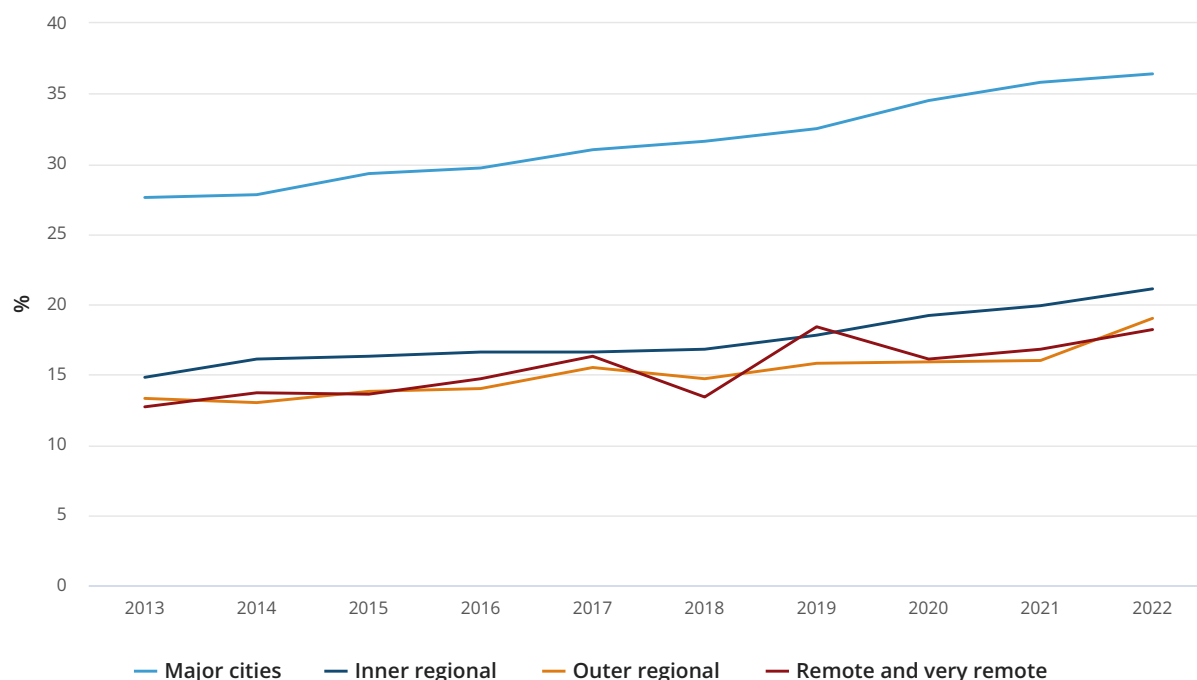
10: People with a bachelor degree or above as their highest qualification, by sex and age



Source: Education and Work, Australia, 2022, Customised data

People living in major cities were more likely to have a bachelor degree or above (36%) than those living in inner regional areas (21%), outer regional areas (19%), or remote and very remote areas (18%).

11: People with a bachelor degree or above, by remoteness, 2013-2022(a)(b)



(a) All persons aged 15-74 years.

(b) Changes over time for remote and very remote series are not statistically significant.

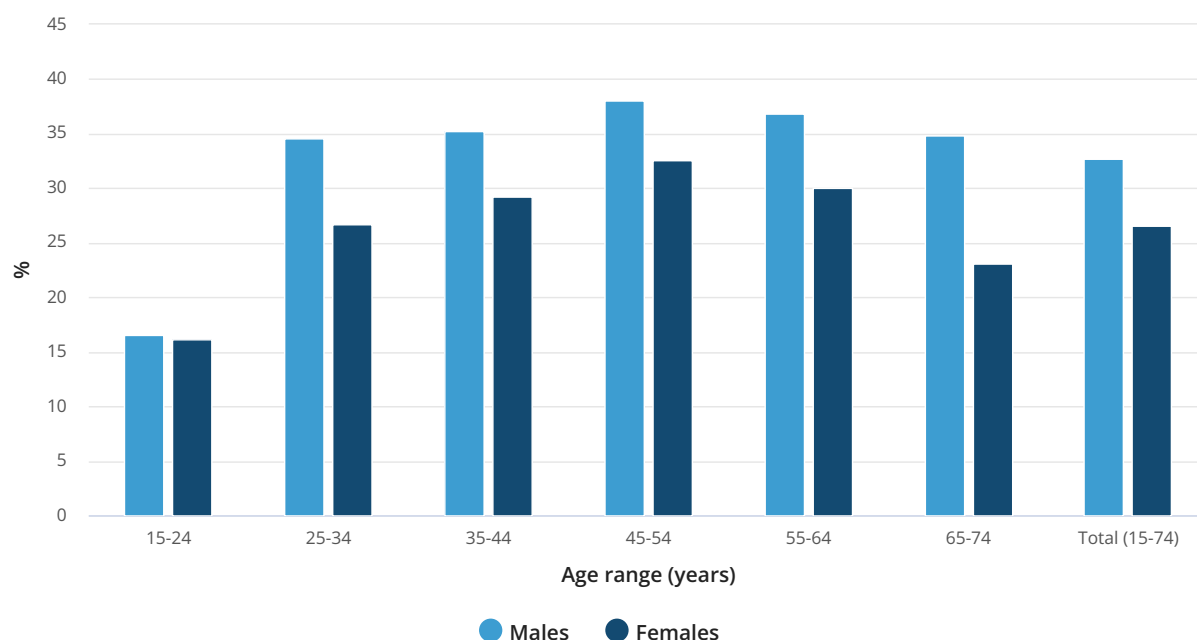
Source: Education and Work, Australia, 2022, Table 34

Non-school qualifications below bachelor degree level

In 2022:

- 30% of people aged 15-74 years had a certificate, diploma or advanced diploma as their highest qualification.
- 33% of men had a certificate, diploma or advanced diploma as their highest qualification, compared with 27% of women.
- The proportions of young men and women aged 15-24 years who had a non-school qualification below bachelor degree level was similar.

12: People with a certificate, diploma or advanced diploma as their highest qualification, by sex and age



Source: Education and Work, Australia, 2022, Customised data

Education and employment

Transitions from study to work

In 2022, of people aged 15-74 years who had completed a non-school qualification in 2021:

- 85% were employed in 2022.
- 5% were looking for work.

Just under 72% of people aged 15-20 years who had finished Year 12 in 2021 were employed in 2022. Of these school leavers:

- 6% were studying while working full-time.
- 35% were studying while working part-time.

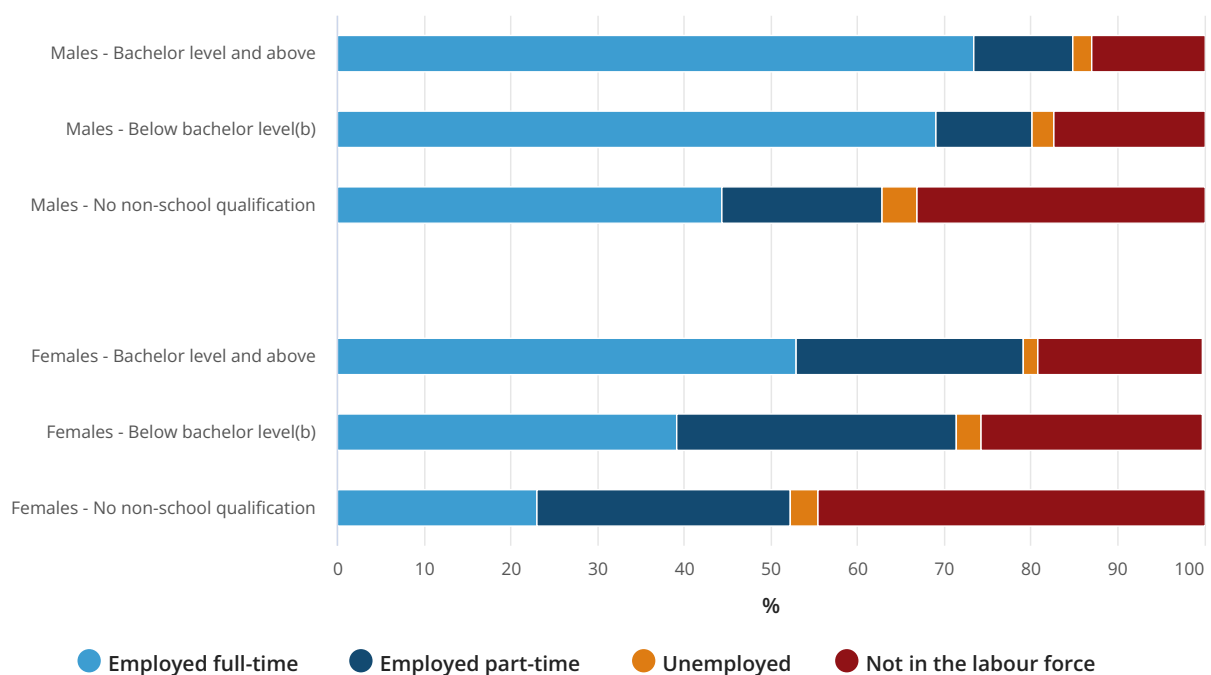
Non-school qualifications and employment

People aged 15-74 years with a non-school qualification (certificate, diploma or degree) were more likely to be employed (79%) than those without a non-school qualification (58%).

The higher the qualification, the more likely people were to work full-time:

- 74% of men with a degree at bachelor level or above worked full-time, compared with 69% with a non-school qualification below bachelor level, and 44% with no non-school qualifications.
- 53% of women with a degree at bachelor level or above worked full-time, compared with 39% with a non-school qualification below bachelor level, and 23% with no non-school qualifications.

13: Labour force status by non-school qualifications, by sex(a)



(a) All persons aged 15-74 years.

(b) Includes certificates I-IV and n.f.d., diplomas, advanced diplomas and associate degrees.

Source: *Education and Work, Australia, 2022, customised data*

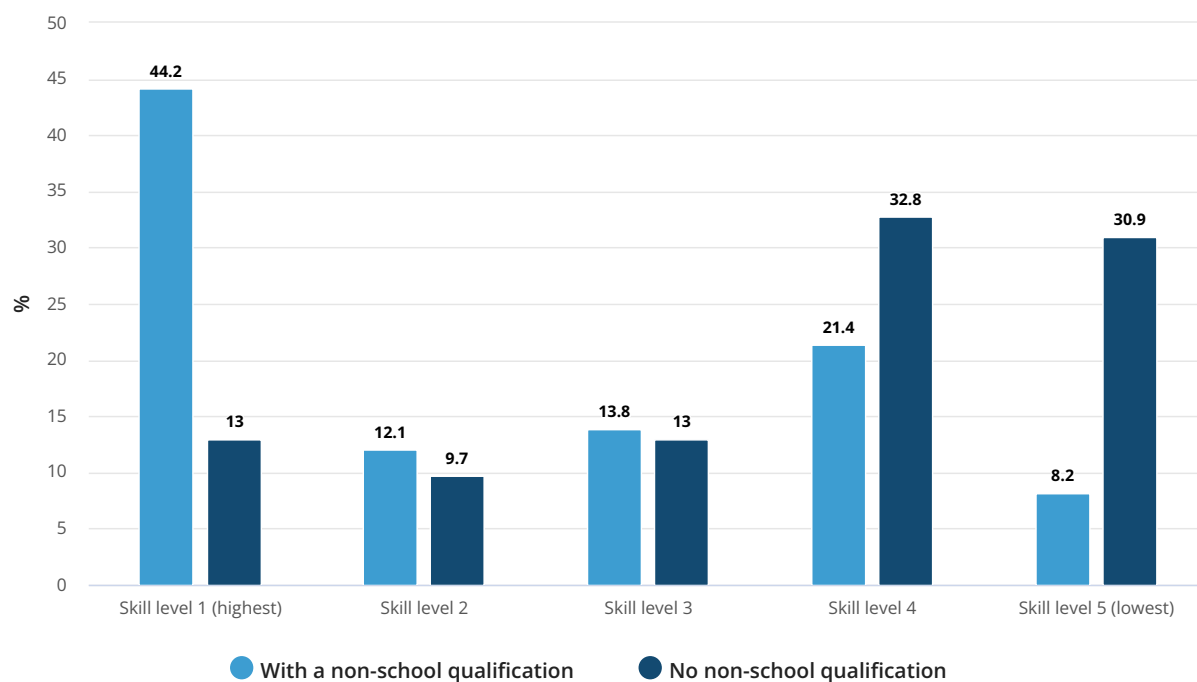
Skill level of occupation

People with non-school qualifications were more likely to work in jobs with higher skill levels:

- 44% worked in Skill level 1 jobs (the highest skill level, including occupations such as pharmacists, architects, school principals, farm managers, arts professionals, etc.).
- 14% worked in Skill level 3 jobs (plumbers, hairdressers, butchers, etc.).
- 21% worked in Skill level 4 jobs (receptionists, delivery drivers, miners, etc.).

Most people without a qualification worked in either Skill level 4 or Skill level 5 jobs (33% and 31% respectively).

14: Skill level of occupation by whether has a non-school qualification(a)



(a) All persons aged 15-74 years.

Source: *Education and Work, Australia, 2022, Table 32*

Data downloads

Education and work

1: Current study, Tables 1-10

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[207.02 KB]

2: Current study, Table 11 (time series)

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[315.93 KB]

3: Current study at Certificate III level or above, Table 12 (time series)

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4: Recent study, Tables 13-14

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5: Engagement in employment and/or study, Table 15 (time series)

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[779.5 KB]

6: Fully engaged in employment or study, Table 16 (time series)

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7: Fully engaged in employment or study (excluding school) by age, Table 17 (time series)

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8: Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent, Table 18 (time series)

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9: Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate II level or above, Table 19 (time series)

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10: Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate III level or above, Table 20 (time series)

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11: Highest educational attainment, Tables 21-23

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12: Non-school qualifications, Table 24

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[\[55.98 KB\]](#)

13: Non-school qualifications, Table 25 (time series)

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14: Non-school qualifications by age by sex, Table 26 (time series)

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15: With or studying towards a non-school qualification, Table 27 (time series)

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16: Highest non-school qualification, Tables 28-32

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17: Highest non-school qualification: Certificate III level or above, Table 33 (time series)

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18: Highest non-school qualification: Bachelor degree level or above, Table 34 (time series)

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19: Highest non-school qualification: Bachelor degree level or above by age by sex, Table 35 (time series)

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[\[226.74 KB\]](#)

Education and work 2022 All downloads ZIP file

[!\[\]\(28f72b996fc97883dfd9d4e8b1b16b4e_img.jpg\) Download ZIP](#)
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Survey material

Education and work 2022 Questionnaire

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[\[259.18 KB\]](#)

Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6227.0.

Post release changes

28/02/2023 - Data corrections have been made to the following:

In the 'Key statistics' section, dot point 1 (people aged 15-74 years with a non-school qualification) was amended to 63% instead of 32% (which is the proportion of people aged 15-74 years who had a bachelor degree or above).

In the 'Current and recent study' section, dot point 2 was amended to 65% (proportion of students aged 15-24 years), with a further 18% aged 25-34 years' (instead of 63% and 14% respectively).

In the subsection 'Young people and school leavers', dot point 2 was amended to 44% (people aged 20-24 years who had been studying for a non-school qualification in 2020), instead of 46%.

In the subsection 'Studying for a non-school qualification', dot point 4 was amended to 18% (proportion of female students studying for a certificate III or IV), instead of 22%.

In the 'Qualifications held' section, 'Non-school qualifications at bachelor degree level or above' subsection, dot point 2 was amended to include the words 'or above'.

Methodology

[Education and Work, Australia methodology, May 2022](#)